

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ANDERSON/GREENWOOD DIVISION

Willie Joe Sturkey, #146039)	
)	Civil Action No. 8:08-2758-MBS-BHH
Plaintiff,)	
)	<u>REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION</u>
)	<u>OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE</u>
v.)	
)	
Jon Ozmint, et.al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

The plaintiff, a prisoner proceeding pro se, brought this action alleging constitutional violations pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The matter is before the Court on the plaintiff's motion for a temporary restraining order ("TRO"). (Dkt. # 21.)

Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure governs the issuance of TROs. Pursuant to Rule 65, "a temporary restraining order may be granted . . . only if it clearly appears from specific facts shown . . . that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage will result to the applicant." Further, in considering whether to issue an injunction under Rule 65(b), the Court must consider four factors: (1) the likelihood of irreparable harm to the plaintiff if the Court denies the preliminary injunction; (2) the likelihood of harm to the defendants if the injunction is granted; (3) the likelihood that the plaintiff will succeed on the merits of this underlying claim; and (4) the public interest. *Smith v. Ozmint*, 444 F. Supp.2d 502, 504 (D.S.C. 2006). A plaintiff does not have an

automatic right to a TRO, and such relief should be used sparingly. The primary purpose of injunctive relief is to preserve the status quo pending a resolution on the merits. Injunctive relief which changes the status quo pending trial is limited to cases where “the exigencies of the situation demand such relief.” *Wetzel v. Edwards*, 635 F.2d 283, 286 (4th Cir.1980).

Additionally, functions of prison management must be left to the broad discretion of prison administrators to enable them to manage prisons safely and effectively. *Gaston v. Taylor*, 946 F.2d 340, 343 (4th Cir. 1991). Courts should grant preliminary injunctive relief involving the management of prisons only under exceptional and compelling circumstances. *Taylor v. Freeman*, 34 F.3d 266, 269 (4th Cir. 1994). Without a showing that plaintiff will suffer imminent, irreparable harm, the court cannot grant interlocutory injunctive relief. *Rum Creek Coal Sales, Inc. v. Caperton*, 926 F.2d 353, 360 (4th Cir. 1991). The plaintiff must show that the irreparable harm he faces in the absence of relief is “neither remote nor speculative, but actual and imminent.” *Direx Israel, Ltd. v. Breakthrough Medical Group*, 952 F.2d 802, 812 (4th Cir. 1991) (citation omitted).

In his motion, the plaintiff alleges he has been subjected to excessive force and retaliation. (Pl.’s Mot.) However, the plaintiff has failed to provide the Court with any facts regarding the alleged excessive force and retaliation claims. In his reply to the defendant’s response to this motion, the plaintiff alleges he was transferred to Evans Correctional Institution in December 2007 as punishment for filing an earlier lawsuit and his legal documents were improperly seized twice. (Pl.’s Reply Mem. at 2.) These are

the underlying facts of the claims which the plaintiff has alleged in his complaint. There is no evidence or allegation that he is under any threat or that the plaintiff's legal documents will be seized again and the Court will not assume as much. The plaintiff has failed to show that irreparable harm is likely if his motion is denied. Accordingly, there is no basis to enter the TRO. See Fed.R.Civ.P. 65 (requiring immediate, irreparable threat of injury). Nor has the plaintiff established a likelihood that he will eventually succeed on the merits or that the public interest lies with granting the relief. Accordingly, the plaintiff's motion for a TRO should be denied.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, it is RECOMMENDED that the Plaintiff's Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (Dkt. # 21) be DENIED.

IT IS SO RECOMMENDED.

s/Bruce Howe Hendricks
United States Magistrate Judge

January 30, 2009
Greenville, South Carolina

The plaintiff's attention is directed to the important notice on the next page.

Notice of Right to File Objections to Report and Recommendation

The parties are advised that they may file specific written objections to this Report and Recommendation with the District Court Judge. Objections must specifically identify the portions of the Report and Recommendation to which objections are made and the basis for such objections. In the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must “only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.” *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310 (4th Cir. 2005).

Specific written objections must be filed within ten (10) days of the date of service of this Report and Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). The time calculation of this ten-day period excludes weekends and holidays and provides for an additional three (3) days for filing by mail. Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a) & (e). Filing by mail pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 5 may be accomplished by mailing objections to:

Larry W. Propes, Clerk
United States District Court
P.O. Box 10768
Greenville, South Carolina 29603

Failure to timely file specific written objections to this Report and Recommendation will result in waiver of the right to appeal from a judgment of the District Court based upon such Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); *United States v. Schronce*, 727 F.2d 91 (4th Cir. 1984); *Wright v. Collins*, 766 F.2d 841 (4th Cir. 1985).